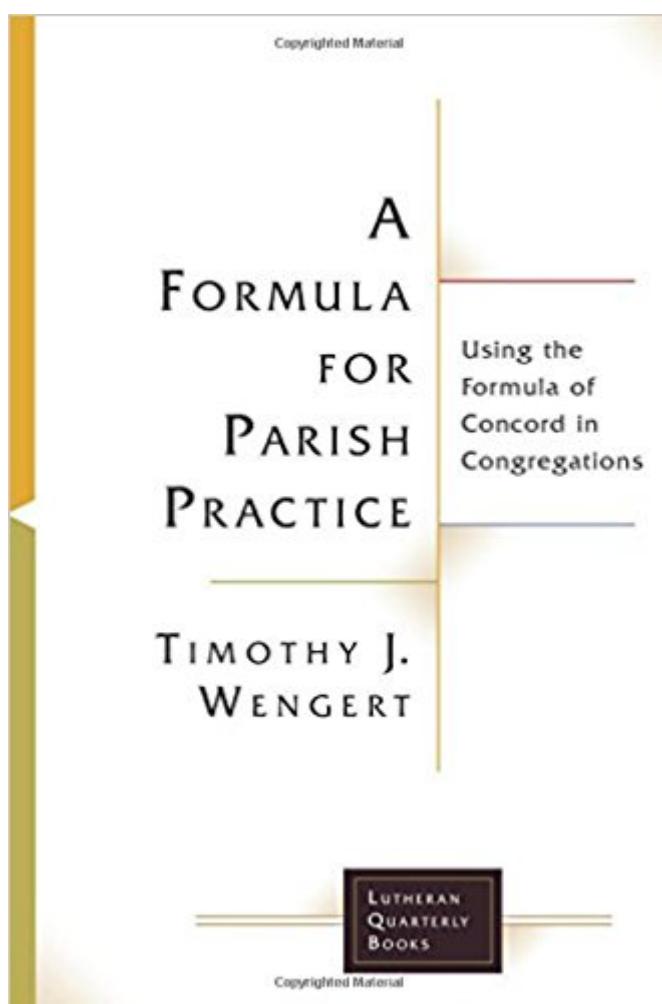


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A Formula For Parish Practice: Using The Formula Of Concord In Congregations (Lutheran Quarterly Books)



Synopsis

This book combines a rich description of the (Lutheran) Formula of Concord (1577) with experiences in today's Lutheran parishes to demonstrate how confessional texts may still come to life in modern Christian congregations. Timothy Wengert takes the Formula of Concord, traditionally used as ammunition in doctrinal disagreements, back to its historical home, the local congregation, giving pastors, students, and theologians a glimpse into the original debates over each article. The most up-to-date English commentary on the Formula of Concord, *A Formula for Parish Practice* provides helpful, concise descriptions of key theological debates and a unique weaving of historical and textual commentary with modern Lutheran experience. Covering the entire Formula of Concord the book includes discussion questions at the end of each chapter.

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Customer Reviews

This book combines a rich description of the (Lutheran) Formula of Concord (1577) with experiences in today's Lutheran parishes to demonstrate how confessional texts may still come to life in modern Christian congregations. Timothy Wengert takes the Formula of Concord, traditionally used as ammunition in doctrinal disagreements, back to its historical home, the local congregation, giving pastors, students, and theologians a glimpse into the original debates over each article. The most up-to-date English commentary on the Formula of Concord, "A Formula for Parish Practice" provides helpful, concise descriptions of key theological debates and a unique weaving of historical

and textual commentary with modern Lutheran experience. Covering the entire Formula of Concord the book includes discussion questions at the end of each chapter. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Timothy J. Wengert is emeritus Ministerium of Pennsylvania Professor of Reformation History at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Wengert is a representative for the ELCA on the Commission on Faith and Order of the National Council of Churches.

The Formula of Concord is the last of the Lutheran Confessions - the formal doctrinal articles of the Lutheran church. It comes in two forms - a solid declaration that is long and rarely read and the epitome or summary that was requested by the Lutheran princes of the time. That request must rank as one of the great editorial and executive decisions of all time. The epitome of the Formula of Concord in twelve articles lays out in a clear and understandable form the doctrine of the church in many important controversies. It does this both by laying out the positive case and by pointing out error in negative statements. This book goes article by article with discussions that live up to the source material. If you are Lutheran and have never read the epitome of the formula of concord, and your pastor won't walk through it, this book is a great companion. Share it with him and suggest a study. If you are a pastor, this book is a wonderful starting point for such a discussion group and remarkably relevant. The biggest hurdle is often the thought that no 500 year old document can be relevant, but the formula used in this book is both faithful and cuts to the core of how we live life and wait in hope.

Who would have thought that the Formula of Concord, written in 1577, could teach us about both doctrine and problem solving? Timothy Wengert's book draws upon the research of Reformation scholar Robert Kolb. Dr. Kolb was one of my mentors while I attended seminary. Anything with Dr. Kolb's name attached to it is good for me! Actually, this is not a deeply scholarly book. It teaches us how the 16th century church dealt with factions in their age. There are plenty of lessons here we still need to apply to our own day and age.

Timothy Wengert makes a very fine attempt at making the Formula of Concord relevant to today's parishioners. This is all the more appreciable if you read the Formula of Concord. It is hardly the first thing on most people's minds these days. Wengert, relying heavily on Robert Kolb's scholarship, gives a fine historical introduction to each article. He then explains the article in question and then

relates a charming story from his days in the parish. Since this is not supposed to be a scholarly analysis of the Formula I suppose I could say that Wengert makes it as relevant as it can be made for today's laypeople.

Unique and uplifting, historically accurate and pragmatic. Pastors would do well to read and put into practice.

This gives great insight to how Lutheran theology applies to daily life. This serves as an example of Lutheran apologetics.

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